

# Willits Weekly

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Thursday, March 26, 2015



## Long Valley Fire:

Ambulance service shortfalls lead to fiscal woes

Dan McKee

Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Editor's note: This is the final part of a three-part series examining conditions within north county fire districts.

At first glance, the Long Valley Fire Protection District appears to be in better shape than most other north county fire districts. According to the March 2015 Local Agency Formation Commission Fire Protection Services Municipal Service Review, the district provides satisfactory fire protection to the 3,000 residents living within its 238-square-mile service area.

Read the rest of **LAFCO** | Over on Page 15

## Council goal-setting workshop set Saturday

Zack Cinek

Reporter  
zack@willitsweekly.com

Members of the Willits City Council will meet Saturday to decide what the council's goals will be for the coming fiscal year. The public meeting will start at 9 am at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street.

Council decisions on prioritizing goals are part of the city's annual budget process, assisted by consultants and public meetings to ponder finances and receive public input.

The few residents who attended a special meeting earlier this month with hired

Read the rest of **Workshop** | Over on Page 15

## 2.5% COLA approved for county retirees

Ursula Partch

Contributing Reporter

Current and retired Mendocino County employees attended a March 18 Mendocino County Employee Retirement Association board meeting to express their concerns and frustrations about salary and benefit cuts and inequities.

The stage was set at the February MCERA meeting when approval of the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for retirees was on the agenda. This was not

Read the rest of **COLA** | Over on Page 11



Above, from left: Bill Bruneau gets ready to enjoy his meal. Dishwasher crew member Joyce Diane Connors and the fruit station's Nancy Finn smile for the camera. A "Mickey Mouse" special plate.

Pancake master Richard Jergenson holds up plates of hot cakes.

Photos by Maureen Moore



## Pancakes at the Grange

On the fourth Sunday of the month, the grill is heated and burners lit to prepare pancakes, Beeler's Quality bacon, farm-fresh eggs and more for the hungry folks who come to the Little Lake Grange's Pancake Breakfast. This time, the Grangers raised around \$250, and everyone who came enjoyed their carefully prepared pancakes, including some special Mickey Mouse shaped ones for the little eaters, too. Meals are just \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors, and \$4 for children, and monies go to help support the Grange. Make sure to stop by next month, Sunday, April 26, and grab a tasty plate!



Above, from left: Egg master Mike Burgess flips some eggs over easy. Meal prep men Liam Uicearbhaill, Richard Jergenson, and Mike Burgess. Below, from left: Singer Vern Morninglight performs at the breakfast. Tabitha Atkinson collects money at the door. Sky Greystar waitresses with the orange juice tray.

Photos by Maureen Moore



## Wowser Works Willits nonprofit asks the community to help it 'go big'

Wowser's top leaders made a pitch to the Willits community for support Saturday and, based on the applause and some envelopes tucked into collection baskets, it looks like they got at least a piece of what they need, which includes raising a total of \$500,000 in seed money. The next steps: to evolve Wowser from a great, nonprofit idea into a series of for-profit businesses that will increase tax revenue for Willits, provide serious skills training and vocational training, and create jobs.

Jennifer Poole

Editor & Reporter  
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The Wowser maker space on Commercial Street has been around for a couple of years now: Volunteers have been renovating the space, building a collection of tools and materials, gathering more members, and making a difference in the lives of young people who've found a place they can learn – and shine.

Saturday's event at the Willits High School auditorium started out with short speeches by several of these young

Read the rest of **Wowser** | Over on Page 13



Members of the Wowser crew outside the East Commercial Street facility. From left to right, Tara Logan, Alex Rodriguez (standing), Mike Burgess, Ian Fitzpatrick, Cyndee Logan, Roger Wilson, Joseph Faustina, and James Wilson. Photo by Erin Creekmur

## Settlement reached

in sewer plant lawsuit

Mike A'Dair

Reporter  
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The City of Willits and Brooktrails Township have reached a settlement in their longstanding lawsuit over financial obligations connected with the Willits' new wastewater treatment plant.

The two sides announced a settlement had been reached late Tuesday night, following a 12-hour negotiation session.

The trial in the case, which was filed in 2010 and amended several times in the intervening five years, began in Santa Rosa on March 12.

Asked to comment on the settlement, Willits City Manager Adrienne Moore

Read the rest of **Settlement** | Over on Page 15

## City wins post-bypass Main Street planning grant

Zack Cinek

Reporter  
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The City of Willits – with help from business owners and area agencies – has garnered itself funding for post-bypass Main Street planning.

An application for Main Street planning funds was submitted to the California Department of Transportation last fall. And last Friday, the city learned it had been awarded a \$170,670 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant for the Willits Main Street Corridor Enhancement Project.

The city and its partners will develop a Corridor Enhancement Plan for

Read the rest of **Grant** | Over on Page 11

## 'Road rage' shooter escapes during court hearing

A 39-year-old Willits transient is back behind bars after escaping briefly from the Mendocino County Courthouse last Friday.

Dustin Gabriel Henderson was being arraigned before Superior Court Judge David Nelson at about 9:20 am for allegedly shooting at a motorist on Highway 162 on March 9, when he bolted from the courtroom, ran down a stairwell, smashed a Standley Street glass exit door, and ran down North School Street pursued by bailiffs, sheriff's deputies and Ukiah police officers.

Read the rest of **Escape** | Over on Page 11





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## Soroptimist International of Willits awards annual winners

All the advertisers on this page opted to continue their support of the Soroptimists by bundling their 2015 Willits Community Telephone Directory advertisement with the women-owned business Willits Weekly. We will continue to pair bundled advertisers with Soroptimist content in upcoming editions of Willits Weekly and encourage our readers to thank all our advertisers for their support.

During their annual luncheon, held this year on St. Patrick's Day, Soroptimist International of Willits members gave two worthy ladies recognition and awards. Shannon Demuth received the "Dream It, Be It" award and \$750. The award recognizes a woman who is going back to school and bettering her life. Elizabeth Hart won the Ruby Award, one that recognizes a woman in the community who helps better the lives of women and girls. Congratulations, ladies!

Above: Soroptimists pose with 2015 winners during the awards luncheon, from left: Linda Posner, Ruby Award winner Elizabeth Hart, Elizabeth Sinesky, "Dream It, Be It" winner Shannon Demuth, Divora Stern, Vicki Ham and Loraine Patton.

Photo by Maureen Moore



Ar left: "Aradan" CDs.  
At right: Malakai Schindel at Brickhouse Coffee.  
At right, below: Malakai Schindel, left, with Kevin Moynahan, recording engineer for "Aradan."  
Photos by Jennifer Poole

## 'Aradan' by Malakai Schindel

New CD by Willits artist and musician

Malakai Schindel has just released his first CD, "Aradan," with 16 instrumental tracks, all composed and performed by the artist.

"They're all originals," Schindel said, "a collection of various compositions from different times." Schindel plays pan flute, silver flute, different ethnic and Native American flutes, shakuhachi flute, didgeridoo, hammer dulcimer and percussion on "Aradan." The tracks feature multi-instrumental sounds as well as solos.

Comments from fans on Facebook about the new CD include: "Beautiful mind music and meditative sound. Very skillfully performed and recorded. Love this genre of music. Well done. Everyone must hear it!"

"If u love truly beautiful sounds/music I recommend getting a copy asap." "Wow I picked it up at Main Street Music Great Album!" "Amazing artist, musician and Dionysian reveler Malakai Schindel has just released this instrumental album - do your soul a favor and buy one today!!!" and "Malakai Schindel is an incredible musician - he's infinity bound!"

"Aradan" means "noble man" in the Sindarin High Elvish language created by J.R.R. Tolkien, and each track's name is in Sindarin, too, some of the titles taken directly from "The Silmarillion" and others compounded from that language "to evoke the feeling of the ancient world," Schindel said.

The CD took about three months to make, with the help of guitarist Kevin Moynahan and his Willits recording studio. "244 hours," Moynahan said, "to make 53 minutes of music. Beautiful, beautiful music. Have I said 'everybody should buy the CD' yet?"

"It was an incredible process," Schindel said. "My deepest and most immense gratitude to Kevin for making this possible.... He did an impeccable job on the recording and editing."

Schindel has been playing music for about 20 years. "I picked up the flute in high school and fell in love with that voice. It carried me to other voices of wind and breath, focusing on the life source of the breath. And I've been fortunate enough to have been given some beautiful instruments from around the world."

"I've always been fascinated by pan pipes," he continued. "Probably they are my favorite instrument." Schindel has done extensive studio recording for other projects and other bands, plays live with Schindig and the Dirt Floor Band, entertains on the Skunk Train, and does visual art and sculpture as well.

The CD cover features a photo, taken by Moynahan, of Schindel with panpipes, and his wife, dancer Kaylyn Marie, on 10 Mile Beach on the Mendocino Coast.



"Aradan" is available for purchase at Main Street Music, from Schindel personally, or by emailing malakaiart@yahoo.com and sending \$15 plus \$3 for shipping to 861 East Hill Road, Willits 95490, or purchasing via PayPal. A CD release party is being arranged: Watch Willits Weekly's Calendar for the date and more details.

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At left, top: Early morning lettuce harvest. At left: The fruits and veggies of their labor, a CSA distribution point. Above: Horsepower at Live Power Community Farm. Below: The crew at Live Power Farm, including Steve and Gloria Decater, top row, at right.

## 'The Mainline' blog on: Live Power Community Farm

*Editor's note: This is the most recent piece, posted March 20, on "The Mainline," the DripWorks blog featuring a wide variety of informative posts on subjects related to farming, gardening and water conservation. Photos – chosen by "The Mainline" – were provided by Live Power Community Farm.*

By Leon Springer, DripWorks

Gloria and Stephen Decater moved to the sparsely inhabited but beautiful and fertile valley of Covelo, California in 1973. Years later they formed Live Power Community Farm, an association of involved consumers and dedicated farmers. This farm today is a 50-acre, solar electric and horse powered, diversified, certified biodynamic CSA (community supported agriculture) farm.

Live Power has an active volunteer core group of 10 to 20 members who help organize membership, distribution, communications, website development, member surveys, general meetings, and on-site work days. Members (shareholders who give financial support) give input as to

varieties of veggies to be grown, so that the planting plan can be tuned to the needs of the community.

The farmers provide a weekly basket of fresh, high-quality organic fruits and vegetables that are in season, while the shareholders commit their financial (or volunteer) support. As one of the members of the Live Power CSA, my family pays \$25 per week and meets a weekly delivery truck at a home of one of the members in our town for the food distribution. We then fill our basket with the just-harvested, locally grown, delicious produce. Seeing and talking with the other members (and Gloria or Stephen) is a fun social occasion.

Learning how to use food that is local and seasonal can challenge new members, because the preparation, preservation, and storage of food that comes straight from the land is much different than deciding on a menu and then shopping for it. To help with this challenge, Live Power Community Farm has a bi-weekly newsletter with recipes that we find helpful. My wife and I also go online and Google for recipes using any veggie you can imagine. For us, this has become a favorite way to learn to cook with new and sometimes unusual foods from the farm.

The CSA movement has been defined by its concern

for the small family farmer. Keeping these farmers as part of our national heritage, both now and in the future, for our children and our grandchildren, is our concern. Eating the healthy bounty that they provide is our privilege.

If you live in the inland valley of Mendocino County (food distribution is in Willits and Ukiah), and would like to sign up to be a shareholder and receive a weekly basket of farm fresh food, go to <http://livepowercommunityfarm.csasignup.com>. Deadline to sign up for the 2015 CSA is May 1, but if there are shares available, signups are accepted throughout the season, 30 weeks long, from the first week of May through the last week of November. Shares are available paid fully in advance, or paid quarterly or monthly. Live Power Farm also has CSA members in Covelo, Marin County, San Francisco, and Berkeley. To visit the Live Power Farm website go to [www.livepower.org](http://www.livepower.org).

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